Ultrasonic Flaw Detector Machines

452. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the derailment of wagons were caused due to failure of Ultrasonic Flaw Detector Machines purchased from some private companies;

(b) what is the total number of such machines purchased during the last three years alongwith the names of the companies from whom these machines purchased and the quantity received;

(c) whether quality of above machine manufactured by ECIL a Government of India Undertaking compared to the quality of product of other manufacturers in the private sector is excellent; and

(d) if so, why the Railways placed orders on private manufacturers for the above machines?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Total number of such machines procured was 81. These were procured from ECIL-63 Nos, Electronic & Engineering Company, Andheri, Mumbai-3 Nos, Vibronics, Mumbai-9 Nos, Madsonic Inst. Mfg. Co., Ahmedabad-4 Nos. and Krautkrammer, Germany-2 Nos.

(c) and (d) These machines have been procured to a common specification laid down by Research Designs & Standards Organisation of Railways and hence the quality of machines is comparable.

Requests for the Confirmation of Berths from Headquarters Quota

453. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests for confirmation of berths from the headquarters quota (Rail Bhawan) from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament received during January, 1997 till date;

(b) how many requests from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament have been considered by the Ministry;

(c) whether the requests from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament are being ignored and requests from other quarters are considered positively;

(d) whether some tour operators (touts) have made in-roads to Ministry to clear berths from the headquarters quota for their clients; and

(e) what are the steps taken by the Ministry to see that only proper and valid requests are considered?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) A large number of requests are received from various quarters including MPs for release of accommodation out of a limited number of berths earmarked as Emergency Quota and are dealt with on day to day basis. No statistics of requests received from various quarters including MPs are being maintained.

(c) Requests received from the Members of Parliament for release of berths/seats out of Emergency Quota for their own journeys and in favour of their family members are mostly honoured.

Requests of Members of Parliament for allotting berths/seats from Emergency Quota for journey of others are considered on merit depending on factors like status of passengers travelling, nature of urgency like travelling on Government duty, bereavement in the family, sickness, etc.

Since a large number of requests are received from various quarters and are dealth with on day-to-day basis, it is not feasible to accommodate all such requests.

(d) A few take requests have come to notice.

(c) While allotting accommodation out of Emergency Quota, care is taken to ensure that the Emergency Quota is released by the nominated officials as per the prescribed instructions.

Losses to Railways due to Earthquake in Jabalpur

454. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways suffered any loss due to May 22, 1997 earthquake in Jabalpur; and

(b) if so, the details of loss suffered?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A large number of residential quarters and service buildings in and around Jabalpur area sustained major damages. These include the station buildings at Madanmahal and Bheraghat stations and cabins at Jabalpur, Kachhpura and Adhartal stations. Duty bunks at several level crossings and the Bridge Nos. 289 & 291 on Nainpur-Jabalpur Narrow Gauge Section have also been badly damaged. The total cost of repairs/re-building of the damages is estimated to be approx. Rs. 7.5 crore.

Modernisation/expansion of Railway network in Mumbai

455. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra have approached the Union Government to help speed-up approval and release of funds required from Union Government/World Bank for upgrading/modernising/expanding the Railway network for local people in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof, proposal-wise;

(c) the present status of these proposals, project-wise; and

(d) whether performance of project execution of Mumbai metro-projects has been assessed recently and the details thereof, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Government of Maharashtra have approached Ministry of Railways to consider a Rail augmentation plan for a comprehensive Urban Transport Project which could be taken with World Bank assistance. In this connection World Bank had given advance for the certain Project Preparatary studies for the Rail component. The road studies are done by Govt. of Maharashtra. Two of the rail component studies are over. The other two will be completed by September 30.

(d) A statement is attached. [*See Appendix 181, Annexure No. 14-A]*

चतरा और हजारीबाग क्षेत्रों में नक्सलवादी गतिविधियां

456. **श्री नागमणि:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि चतरा और हजारीबाग क्षेत्रों में रेल सम्पर्क की कमी के कारण वहां नक्सलवादी शक्तियों पर काबू नहीं पाया जा सका है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में पिछले दो वर्षों के दौरान सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाए हैं और उसके क्या परिणाम निकले हैं?

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): (क) जैसा कि रेलों को ज्ञात है नक्सलवादियों पर नियंत्रण और रेल लाइनों की व्यवस्था के बीच कोई संबंध नहीं है।

(ख) गया से चतरा और हजारी बाग के रास्ते कोडरमा से गढ़वा रोड तक नई लाइनों के निर्माण के लिए सर्वेक्षण शुरू किए गए हैं। सर्वेक्षण रिपोर्ट उपलब्ध हो जाने पर परियोजना पर आगे विचार करना संभव होगा।